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barrenness of thought, and absence of sincerity and love of truth [p. 369]. . . . When an author was praised, he was praised for having rivalled or distanced Homer or Pindar, Horace or Virgil ; he was never praised for having opened new vistas of thought or for having revealed new powers of expression in language [p. 357].

And what was true in the world of letters was true in the larger world of politics and law, of social and municipal life.

Not the least valuable part of the book is its sympathetic study of the later paganism. Much light has been shed on this subject by the work of such men as Réville and Boissier. But Professor Dill approaches the subject from a standpoint of his own ; and his book, with its painstaking study of individual character, is a useful contribution to our knowledge. We see Christian and pagan living side by side, differing in faith, yet with a certain genial toleration born of the consciousness of a common Roman descent. We see in such a story as that of Paulinus how the social indifference of the Roman aristocrat paved the way for the asceticism of the Christian recluse. We recognize the purity and loveliness of such sturdy old pagans as Symmachus. But at the same time we are made to feel that the future belonged to those earnest Christians who, "while the semi-pagan men of the world were toying with mythological fancies and feeding one another's vanity with tricks and surprises of style," were occupied with living interests and ideas (p. 369).

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

WM. ADAMS BROWN.

A Short History of the Saracens. With maps, illustrations and genealogical tables. By AMEER ALI, SYED, M.A., C.I.E. London and New York, The Macmillan Company, 1899. — 638 pp.

The author, proud of his race and its wonderful history, has wished to make the latter better known, especially in India. The work has thus been distinctly a labor of love, and we much regret that it has not been accomplished more successfully. The average reader will not be interested in the volume ; for, as the author has been unable to seize the salient points and to neglect the minor matters, most of the chapters are too thickly crowded with names, facts and dates. As a book of reference it would be admirable, if greater pains had been taken to secure accuracy, but errors are frequent : dates are wrong, especially where the author attempts to give the year of the Christian era corresponding to that of the Mohammedan calendar, old fables and exaggerated figures are repeated. The student would

find the work useful, if the Arabic sources were indicated more frequently and precisely; but the author does not believe in "burdening us with the names of the authorities" (p. 465). Some of the Western writers whom he does quote frequently are, moreover, very unscholarly. In fact, his copious but undigested bibliography is indicative of his lack of historical training. In addition, he is throughout the work a special pleader and his judgment is biased: thus, he says that the *Universal History* (*al-Kâmil*) of Ibn ul-Athir "may be compared with the best works of Modern Europe." Any one familiar with this work can judge of the author's own fitness for writing history.

These criticisms are made with regret, because the author has industriously gathered the results of extensive study and wide reading and has tried to be impartial. Furthermore, his main thesis is true: our indebtedness to the Arabic civilization is great and deserves to be recognized more fully.

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Étude sur la Propriété foncière dans les villes du moyen-âge et spécialement en Flandres. Par GUILLAUME DES MAREZ. (Recueil de travaux publiés par la Faculté de Philosophie de l'Université de Gand, 20^e fascicule.) Ghent, H. Engelcke, and Paris, Alphonse Picard, 1898. — xxv, 392 pp.

In this work M. des Marez has made an important contribution to the study of one phase of the vexed question of the origin of the mediæval city. Students who have followed the arguments of Arnold, Maurer and Nitzsch, among the older writers, and of Hegel, von Below, Sohm, Keutgen, Pirenne and Maitland, among those of recent date, will thoroughly enjoy this admirably lucid and suggestive monograph. The author is a pupil of Pirenne's, and, as was to be expected, has concentrated his attention upon the cities of Flanders, Ghent, Bruges, Arras, Ypres, with but occasional digressions into other fields. His work may be said to be exhaustive, so far at least as Ghent is concerned; and he has done for the city what Meitzen, Hanssen and Lamprecht have done for the village and the open fields. He has worked out with great care what may be called the tenural history of Ghent: that is, he has traced each part of the city territory to its origin in *castrum*, *portus*, seignior, etc.; has discovered the tenural origin of every house and plot; and has presented the results in plans and maps which show at a glance the different elements out of which the city has been constructed. If